

I propose in any event to carry out
that arrangement & hope to despatch the
case some time during the present
year.

I remain very truly yours

John Ball.

The original of the above letter is sent
to W.T.T. Dyer, one of the trustees under Mr.
Ball's will for the distribution of his her-
barium.

Severus Watson

Cambridge, Jan, 10/90.

(Copy.)

10 Southwell Gardens

South Kensington, London, S.W.

16 Dec./

My Dear Mr. Watson,

The news which reached us by
telegraph filled us with grief & consternation which
has been shared by very many of the friends in
England who had learned to appreciate him — I
need not say that to botanists throughout the world
his loss will be felt as a calamity, and to his
friends it is a personal misfortune. — Seeing in
spite of advanced years such a store of energy
and vigour I had looked forward to many years
of continued activity on the part of that
dear man. I am much indebted to
you for your kind letter of the 5th just
received. We do not venture to write to Mrs.

away but when you have an opportunity
I beg you to convey to her the affectionate sym-
pathy of myself and my wife. We have thought
much and often of her during the last ten days.

I have to thank you for taking care of
me with regard to the collections of Messrs.
Howell & Pringle. As I must set bounds
to my expenditure in that line I do not
propose to subscribe at present for Dr.
Palmer's plants.

In the letter which Mrs. Gray handed to
you there is, if I remember right, a refer-
ence to a small matter which I may
as well explain. Feeling a desire to re-
ciprocate the general kindness which I
have received from American botanists
& a wish to promote the spread of our

science in your country - I commenced
some two years ago to set aside duplicates
and soon put together four large bundles
- over 1000 species - chiefly of European
and Mediterranean plants including a full
proportion of rarities & several rarissima
- I might easily put aside as many
more, but the real difficulty is to find
time to write the labels - those left with
my duplicates being usually intelligible
only to myself. - I have done a part of this
work at odd times, but having no assistance
it gets on slowly. The arrangement was that
anything wanted for the Cambridge Herbarium
should be retained there & the remainder
given to any American institution or private
botanist where they would be likely to be of use.